

Money secured in Commerce-Justice-Science Spending Bill to be used for youth crime prevention activities, stopping repeat offenders, streamlining police communications, bolstering adult probation programs, enhancing criminal records databases

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(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-17), a member of the House Appropriations Committee, has secured \$1,450,000 dollars from the Commerce, Justice and Science spending bill for purposes of crime prevention and justice. The five earmarks target every level of the justice system, including prevention, detection, corrections and rehabilitation.

“The projects that we have secured for our community will help create a safer environment for our children and families,” said Congressman Ryan. **“We are helping our local law enforcement officials by helping them expand their reach, both in traditional law enforcement roles, but also in community policing and preventative tactics that in the long run will keep kids from turning to crime as an alternative and reduce the number of repeat offenders on our streets.”**

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An explanation of the programs can be found below:

AWARD: \$100,000

Akron Oriana Halfway House

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The Misdemeanant Secure Halfway House Facility (MSHF) is a pilot program to provide targeted, researched-backed best practices to treat the growing population of chronic misdemeanor offenders who statistically become repeat felony offenders without comprehensive, confined rehabilitation services and treatment. The goal is to provide cost-effective, comprehensive intervention before such offenders become greater risks to public safety and place more costly demands on existing over-crowded state correctional facilities. MSHF would offer Akron, Barberton and Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Courts the ability to confine, control and reintegrate the chronic misdemeanor offender and make more efficient use of the very limited jail beds for the control and punishment of more serious, felony offenders. This program will be designed to assist an individual offender's re-entry into the community through a process of assessment, intervention, treatment and supervision.

AWARD: \$200,000

Police Athletic League Activities;

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Ohio PAL and the Youngstown PAL develop and maintain youth crime prevention programs that promotes interaction and trust between law enforcement officers and youth. PALS partners

with the law enforcement community. Primary focus is on underserved communities where there are high incidences of youth crime. Funding will also be used towards the creation of a pilot program to address gang related crime in several Communities. The goal is to provide youth with positive activities during non school hours to prevent juvenile crime. This will be accomplished by providing athletic, educational, and youth enrichment programs during non-school hours.

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AWARD: \$495,000.

Weathersfield Township Trustees, Communications Tower

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We are proposing to update and improve our interoperable communication system by building a 190 foot self supporting communication tower with foundation so that the three communities of Weathersfield Township, City of Niles and Village of McDonald, will be able to communicate effectively for all emergency forces, police, fire and road departments. We are in urgent need since our current tower is totally inefficient. It does not reach all communities and thus puts our citizens and safety forces in danger for lack of emergency communications capabilities. Our current central dispatch for 911 is in Niles. When the City of Niles loses power, Weathersfield Township uses a tower that is not even in Trumbull County. It is not owned by any of the 3 communities and cannot reach the entire region.

AWARD: \$200,000.

Portage County Commissioners, Adult Probation Department;

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Since prisoners are being released from prison back into their community, or sentenced to community control, we need to make sure they are prepared to be integrated or reintegrated back into society. The way to do this is to make sure they have the necessary social skills to make it in society. They need to know how to obtain, and retain, employment. Programs such as the Community Integration and Socialization Program (C.I.S.P.) are necessary in order to help our clients with employment search assistance, employment preparation, high school equivalency assistance, and professional counseling needs. By doing so, the goal is a reduction in recidivism.

AWARD: \$455,000

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation

The Ohio Attorney General requests funding to enhance the Ohio AFIS (central repository for all criminal history records in Ohio), to capture and maintain arrest and fingerprint images for misdemeanor offenses, photos and palm prints. Given that all palm prints will be centralized in Ohio AFIS, funds will enable BCI to solve homicides and other crimes by comparing latent palm prints left at crime scenes with known palm prints stored in BCI files.

The Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations bill is still subject to Senate action and must be signed by the President.